December 17, 1945

Dear Bert:

You have received a report from Howard on the local developments on the strike. The comrades are quite upset about the decision to open up the picket lines and would like to do something about it. My opinion is that for the time being they have done about all they can do. We have made our position clear to the membership and gained quite a bit of support as a result of it. However, we are not in a position to give leadership to this strike, even in part.

At the conference we talked about a mid-west tour. I want to make a concrete proposal to you. That is, that you come to Chicago to address a public meeting on the strike wave, in the latter part of January (providing, of course, you are not back in New York by then. By that time the steel and stockyards strikes will be under way and Chicago should be sizzling. I am certain that we could have an excellent meeting of this kind. It would be excellent if you could, in addition, speak to a meeting in Indiana Harbor. Incidentally, we now have a headquarters there.

I urge you to give serious consideration to this proposition. It would mean a great deal for us. Let us know your answer as soon as possible.

Now that you have the station wagon, how are our chances of getting the car? I assure you that the lack of a car cuts our efficiency enormously. We have had to cut our Militant bundle way down primarily for this reason. In addition, you can easily see that when the above-mentioned strikes break our activities will be seriously hampered unless we have one.

Fraternally,

Mike

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PHONE DEARBORN 7562

SOCIALIST WORKERS BOOKSHOP

ROOM 317
160 N. WELLS STREET
CHICAGO 6, ILLINOIS

460

RECEIVED
JAN 9 1946

January 7, 1946

E. R. Frank
116 University Place
New York, N.Y.

Dear Bert:

Received your letter of December 26 and have been patiently awaiting the follow-up letter which you were to have se nt " in just a couple of days."

There is nothing very much new to report on the strikes here.

In reference to the Buick, forget that I am a friend and let us have the car. We'll take it even if we have to tow it here.

My main purpose in writing this letter is to try and get a committment from you on the proposed public meeting. We are planning a series of public forums and would like very much to open the series with your meeting. If it is impossible for you to speak, we will try to get someone else to speak on the subject of the GM strike, or the strike wave in general. We have in mind, for instance, to ask Vincent or Art for such a meeting. So you see, the plans hinge largely on an answer from you.

Fraternally,

Mike

P.S. Are you considering our plans and strategy for the coming UAW convention? If so, what are they?

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116 University Place
New York 3, New York
January 17, 1946

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mike,

I am answering your letter of January 7.

I am leaving for Detroit on Saturday and plan to be there a few weeks. I am entirely willing to speak in Chicago if it can be worked in with my schedule. My suggestion is: write me c/o Ray at the Park Avenue Hotel, Detroit, and we will try to work something out.

As for the car: The Buick is the only car Detroit has at the present time. They cannot be asked to give it up while the campaign is on. The station-wagon has been wrecked here in New York and is out of the running.

We may have a meeting of Midwest organizers in a little while, similar to the one we previously held. We can discuss the coming UAW convention at some detail then.

With best regards,

Yours fraternally,

E. R. Frank

ERF/ac

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October 11, 1947

SWP
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mike:

This is in the nature of both a request and a consult ation. It involves Willard Motley from whom I should like to write get for the FI a piece along such lines as the following: Hickman as a social symbol, with particular stress on the toll that the operation of the Jim Crow system takes in its "non-spectacular" aspects. You will find the generalidea developed in the enclosed editorial which will appear in the next issue of the magazine.

If you think that this is a good idea, will you broach it to him? His book, "Knock on any Door," gives clear indications that he is socialily minded. His action in the Hickman case is proof that he not only thinks in social terms but has the will to act upon his ideas. Such men are rare in the literary world; and it would be good for both him and us if you get a broader basis of collaboratio n. At the earliest possible moment. We are all agreed on this, as you yourself are too, it goes without saying. We talked it over here and decided to put the matter to you and leave it entirely to your judgement as to how to proceed.

Personally, I am very much impressed with the entire activity of Chicago. Fine work!

With warm regards,

John G. Wright

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RECEIVED
OCT 2? 1947

October 21, 1947

John G. Wright
New York City

Dear John:

This is in answer to your letter of October 11 requesting an article by Motley for theF.I. I have contacted him and made the proposition byt it is not at all possible. His objections are not political, i.e., he does not hesitate because of the nature of the magazine but because of lack of time. As you can well imagine he is being pressed from all directions for one thing or another and now is turning down all requests for articles, speeches, etc. in order to work on his second novel. In addition, he is leaving for Hollywood shortly as a picture is being produced based on his book.

Incidentally, your editorial is very good.

Comradely,
Mike Bartell
MIKE BARTELL

MB:BL

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Wright

Mikes proposal is that the two groups meet together starti

this Monday. He prefers that this session and the next be

devoted to Chapter 2 on Exchange. He has already instructe

the Monday group to read this chapter, and is instructing t

group which meets today to read Chapter 2 for this Monday.

He has made no assignments. He will have a mimeographed lis

of questions available this Monday [illegible]

used for the second session. They will be avail[illegible] if you

want to use them.

I suggest you open with an exposito

on the chapter - especially since it will

be a large group

mB

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